

ON THE FIELD OF BATTLE

eed ; and not only do you not help him, but you do
not even
keep what you have promised. Thereby you
show signs of
great ingratitude; for which I fear that, if you are
not truly
rateful, God will permit you to inflict the
punishment upon
ourselves, even as you have done in the past."¹
The Republic
of Perugia had concluded a final and complete peace
with Urban
at the beginning of the year, 1379, but was no less
tardy in
paying the tribute, though the Pope was sorely
in need of
every soldo. Catherine sent Neri with a letter to
the Priors of
the People and Commune : " with desire of seeing
you succour
our father and yourselves, in his need and yours ;
for to aid
him is to contribute to your own safety, spiritually
and tempor-
ly " ; urging them to show their gratitude and
secure their own
liberty by giving him all the aid in their power."²
But it is
notable that none of the Italian communes, however
dissatisfied
with Urban, showed any disposition to desert him for
Clement.
When, a few months later, a quarrel broke out
between the
Roman Pontiff and the Bolognese, and Clement sent a
bishop
offer to grant the vicariate of Bologna to the
Commune on
their own terms, if they would recognize him
as Pope, the
Bolognese answered that, at the bidding of the
cardinals, they
did acknowledge Urban, and that they
intended to obey
whoever should ultimately be decided by the Church
to be the
true successor of
Peter.⁸

In Catherine's letter to the Perugians, we find this remarkable message : " You see these times prepared for great burdens, and our country doomed to the coming of princes ; and we are fragile like glass, because of our many sins and great dissensions. therefore, we desert our father and do not help him, we shall be in danger; for, being severed from our strength, we shall be weak." And again : "Keep united, for Christ crucified, and then do not fear any tyrant; for the aid of God, for the love

¹ Letter 337 (199). Cf. Gherardi, *op. cit.*, pp. 94-96.

^a Letter 339 (205). Cf. Pellini, I. pp. 1237-1242. Stefano's letter of LC 22 shows that Neri had gone to Perugia before that date. ⁸ Cf. Raynaldus, vii. p. 389 ; *Cronica di Bologna*, col. 522,